CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A process for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet comprising the steps of:

  providing a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not;

  determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal;

  when a guest obtains a Web userid/password in GR, storing guest information in a GR data store;

  determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;

  accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved;

  determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and

  storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these

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25   links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which

26   displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest has been

27   registered and authorized.

1   2. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as

2   recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

3   defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get

4   authorized to access an application;

5   logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's

6   usereid/password once for each session, as long as applications requested by

7   the guest are in a same realm; and

8   invoking by a logged in guest any of their approved applications by

9   simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized

10   home page.

1   3. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as

2   recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are customizable for each

3   application.

1   4. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as

2   recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are defined for a section of an

3   application, providing a finer level of access control.

1   5. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as

2   recited in claim 2, wherein application specific registration fields are defined

3   so that a registration form, unique to an application, is displayed when a user

4   requests access to an application.

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1   6. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as

2   recited in claim 2, wherein guests may bookmark applications for later access,

3   further comprising the step of prompting by an application a guest to enter

4   their userid/password for authentication against data stored in the GR data

5   store when the application is accessed using a bookmark.

1   7. A data processing system for managing business, technical and operational

2   data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the

3   Internet comprising:

4   a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical

5   User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a

6   registered user or not;

7   means for determining whether a guest is a registered user from input

8   by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select

9   "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web

10   userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement

11   applications available under the supplier portal;

12   a GR data store storing guest information when a guest obtains a Web

13   userid/password;

14   a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a

15   PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;

16   means for determining whether any applications have been authorized

17   for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted

18   applications in the PCR;

19   means for accessing information from the GR data store to

20   automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page

21   being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications

22   get approved;

23   means for determining whether approval is needed for a requested

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24   application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application

25   administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and

26   means for storing links to all applications for which the guest is

27   approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home

28   page which displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest

29   has been registered and authorized.

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